

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1-11 stand rejected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the claims and the references with him on September 1, 2004, and for his helpful suggestions.

Section 112 Rejections:

Applicants have now amended claim 1 by deleting "electromagnetic" from the claim. The other pending claims have similarly been amended by deleting "electromagnetic".

Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-11 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Wober and Fiete. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- (a) **acquiring multiple images, each image acquired at a different spectral band by using a multi-band sensor system;**
- (b) **selecting a plurality of bands from the acquired spectral bands** of step (a), to perform the streak removal operation upon;

Basis for amended claim 1 may be seen, for example, in the specification at page 8, lines 18-20. As described, a multi-band sensor system collects a total of N multiple images, each image is acquired at a different spectral band, denoted as $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \dots, \lambda_N)$, as also shown in FIG. 4.

Applicants have now amended claim 1 to explicitly recite that **multiple images are acquired using a multi-band sensor system. Each acquired image is in a different spectral band.**

Wober discloses a method for removing noise from a digital image. Wober discloses, at column 2, lines 41-43, processing the image using discrete cosine transforms (DCTs) to reduce the noise. As shown in FIG. 4 of Wober, the image is converted into a DCT at a first level. Another DCT computation is performed at a second level and, finally, yet another DCT computation is performed at a third level (see FIG. 8A). Accordingly, Wober teaches transforming the image into multiple DCTs.

Wober, however, does **not** disclose or suggest **acquiring multiple images, where each image is acquired at a different spectral band by using a multi-band sensor system.** Furthermore, Wober does **not** suggest **selecting a plurality of bands from the acquired spectral bands** to perform the streak removal operation.

Fiete discloses the removal of streaks in a single-band image only. Fiete does **not** disclose **acquiring multiple images, where each image is acquired at a different spectral**

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band by using a multi-band sensor system. Furthermore, Fiete does **not** disclose **selecting a plurality of bands from the acquired spectral bands** to perform the streak removal operation.

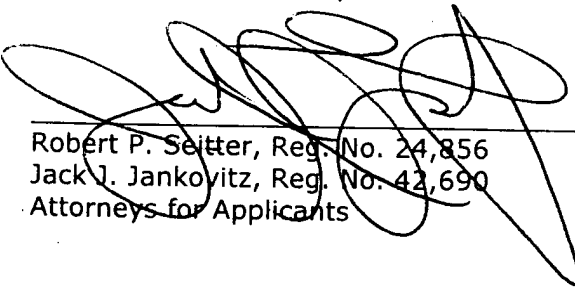
Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested for amended claim 1. Although not the same, claims 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 7, 9 and 11 depend from the above amended claims and are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Conclusion

Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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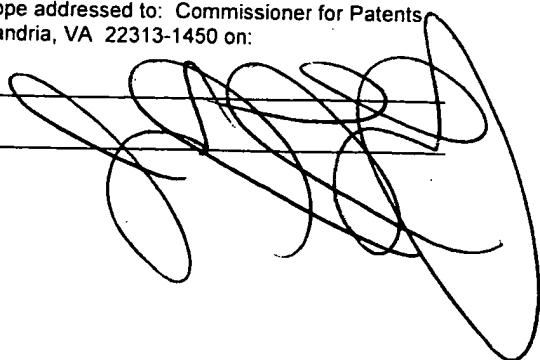
Dated: September 3, 2004

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